

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

5 May 1960

(b)(1)
(b)(3)Nuclear Test Talks

Moscow's acceptance of the Eisenhower [redacted] proposal of 29 March [redacted] lishing a moratorium on small underground tests through unilateral declarations appears designed to focus the summit discussions on the duration of the moratorium. After stressing earlier that a moratorium should be formally incorporated into the treaty, either as an annex or protocol, the chief Soviet delegate on 3 May presented a Soviet Government declaration accepting, in effect, the US [redacted] proposal, provided the three powers reached agreement on a "mutually acceptable duration for the moratorium."

Although the declaration again proposes four to five years as a suitable period, it implies that this is subject to negotiation, on condition that the moratorium be conterminous with the research program for improving detection techniques. Soviet agreement to begin working out this program also included acceptance of the American proposal for conducting experimental nuclear explosions during the course of research.

The Soviet delegate, however, indicated that the research program and experimental tests should be "joint," rather than coordinated national programs as proposed by the Western powers. This approach may indicate the USSR plans to

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debate the concept of "joint" as opposed to "coordinated" in the preliminary meeting of experts beginning on 11 May to establish the framework for the research program.

The Soviet move appears timed to demonstrate Khrushchev's intentions to conduct serious negotiations on the nuclear test issue at the summit. The Soviet premier will probably

call for a long-term Western commitment on a moratorium and may propose a two- to three-year period as a compromise solution. In return he will probably press for Western concession on the number of on-site inspections as the only other major issue blocking conclusion of a treaty.



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